

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: BLent2x2018

Text: Romans 4:13-25

13 For **the promise that he would inherit the world** did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14 **If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.** 15 For the law brings wrath; but **where there is no law, neither is there violation.** 16 **For this reason** it depends on **faith**, in order that the promise may rest on **grace** and be **guaranteed to all his descendants**, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,

17 as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God **in whom he believed**, who **gives life to the dead** and **calls into existence** the things that do not exist. 18 **Hoping against hope**, he **believed** that he would become “the father of many nations,” **according to what was said**, “**So numerous** shall your descendants be.” 19 **He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body**, which was **already as good as dead** (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered **the barrenness of Sarah’s womb.** 20 **No distrust made him waver** concerning the promise of God, but **he grew strong in his faith** as he gave glory to God, 21 **being fully convinced** that God was able to do what he had promised. 22 Therefore his faith “**was reckoned to him as righteousness.**”


23 Now **the words**, “**it was reckoned to him,**” **were written** not for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 **who was handed over to death** for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

SEE ALSO: [Year A Lent 2 2017](#)

Math - S, Nature - B, People - B, Self - S

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
Word - Verbal/Linguistic	<p>Vs. 23 It’s interesting to see how Abraham’s story is interpreted by Paul in the first century. He is using it as part of an argument for intense, life-altering trust.</p> <p>Essentially, the argument is we are all human, and we can all</p>	<p>In this passage, what matters for both Jews and Gentiles is the capacity to trust -</p> <p>Like Aladdin twice asked Jasmine to trust him.</p> <p>Sarah Connor et al “Come with me if you want to live!”</p>	

	trust the way Abraham did.	There is no reason to trust the words of these strangers, but circumstances allow for it. See also PEOPLE	
Eye - Visual/Spatial			
Math - Logical/Mathematical D2			<p>Make a tabletop catapult with a wooden ruler and a fulcrum about an 1” high? (Maybe something like this, but you don’t need this much power. This one is good, but a bit more involved. HERE! THIS ONE! This is easy and not powerful. Perfect.)</p> <p>Fashion two figures from pipe cleaners. One will wrap its arms around the ruler. The other will be free to fly. The idea is for one to be a law keeper, clinging to the catapult, while the other lives by faith, flying freely.</p> <p><i>(MATH for science/engineering and for law. Also EYE for visual effect and BODY for using humanoid projectiles.)</i></p>
Body - Kinesthetic	God gives life to the dead in the sense that God gives life and being where there were none before.	Vs. 18-19 - In case you don’t know, here is an article about physiological changes as you age. Basically, things get weaker, slower, thinner, and looser.	
Musical		“Father Abraham Had Many Sons” Hymn of Promise , Natalie Sleeth	
Natural		Vs. 18 “In the seed of a tree,	This part of the world is heading into spring; who

<p>MWD</p>		<p>stem and leaves are already present, and this gives us the right to sow the seed in hope for the fruit. We have no assurance that it will develop. But our hope is genuine.” ~ Paul Tillich, The Right to Hope</p>	<p>in your congregations are already getting started on their gardens? Have them talk about the experience of sowing seeds and waiting for the harvest.</p>
<p>People - Interpersonal D2</p>	<p>Vs. 22 Abraham is willing to believe - what's he got to lose?</p> <p>The relationship he has established with YHWH to this point allows him to go with God's intention without too much difficulty.</p>	<p>According to TVTropes, entire characters or backstory have been created in movies (and TV) by fans who caught a minor detail and ran with it, building an entire world around it. This is called Fanon (fan-developed canon).</p> <p>For example, that James T. Kirk was born in Riverside, IA - which the town of Riverside IA has used to its tourist advantage. (We even have a coffee mug and t-shirts from there!)</p> <p>Paul has developed a fanon of salvation from the one line in the Abrahamic cycle, “he believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.”</p> <p>Vs. 21: Shut up and take my money!</p> 	<p>God is the author of Abraham's story line and while Abraham and Sarah are pretty certain they know the way it will end, God has information they do not - which they trust - even if they think it is absurd.</p> <p>Break into groups and discuss what your reaction to God's promise of children after 70+ years of barrenness would be. Keep in mind, as Paul tells this story, God kept the promise and a child was born. Does knowing the end of the story make a difference to how we accept the situation?</p>
<p>Self - Intrapersonal MWD</p>	<p>Vs 18 “Participation in the eternal is not given to</p>		<p>Are you more likely to want to “adhere to the law,” that is follow the</p>

	<p>the separated individual. It is given to him in unity with all others, with mankind, with everything living, with everything that has being and is rooted in the divine ground of being.” ~ Tillich, see above</p>		<p>rules and keep things in order, or to “walk by faith,” that is live with an openness to God’s more radical activity in the world? What are the benefits of each? What makes each one challenging or even dangerous? Which does Paul advocate?</p> <p>This week, prayerfully consider one way that God is calling you to greater faith/trust by trying something new for the kingdom. Identify it. Weigh it. Try it.</p>
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